



Coxheath Primary School

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Dear Parent/Carers,

As we welcome back children for the autumn term, we also welcome the cold and flu season. After a prolonged break, it is common for colds and similar viral infections to circulate. This can leave you questioning if the symptoms are that of a general cold/flu or COVID-19. In order to ensure your children do not miss out on their education, it is important to be clear about how COVID-19 symptoms differ from those of other infections that we normally see circulating at this time of year.

COVID-19 symptoms

It is important that all of us – including those who make up the community around a school - are vigilant for the symptoms of COVID-19 and understand what actions we should take if someone develops them, either at school or at home.

The main symptoms to be aware of are:

- new continuous cough
- fever/high temperature
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

If your child develops any of the above symptoms, they should self-isolate and you should book them a test as soon as possible at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/>

It is essential that people who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who share a household with someone who has symptoms, do not attend school and must self-isolate along with all members of their household. If the test is negative, self-isolation can end for everyone.

Cold-like symptoms

If, however, your child does **not** have symptoms of COVID-19 but has other cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, they do not need to be tested and they and you do not need to self-isolate. Your child can go to school if well enough to do so.

We will not be taking your child's temperature unless they are displaying symptoms or report they are not feeling well.

Please contact the school office if you have any concerns or would like to discuss anything further.

Regards

Giacomo Mazza
